



February 3, 2004

**U.S. Attorney's Office collected \$15.6 million in Fiscal 2003,  
more than triple the office's operating expenses**

The United States Attorney's Office collected \$15,661,781 during the 2003 fiscal year, more than triple the office's operating expenses for the year, \$4,800,098. The collections were in the form of civil obligations, criminal asset forfeitures, and criminal fines and assessments.

Acting United States Attorney Craig N. Moore announced the year-end total and commended the office's Financial Litigation Unit, which is responsible for collecting moneys owed for various assessments and penalties.

"The Financial Litigation Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office is an office that, quite literally, gives the taxpayers of Rhode Island, and the country as a whole, their money's worth," Mr. Moore said.

"This year, as in years past, the unit has 'paid its way' and more, collecting far more money owed to the government than it costs to fund the entire office. That sort of success, year after year, is attributable solely to the hard work of the unit's members, Michael Iannotti, Lisa Dinerman, Sylvia Dulgarian, Sandy Mascola, and Maria Natale. It is something that the taxpayers should rightly be both very grateful for and proud of."

During the 2003 fiscal year, which ended September 30, the office collected the following amounts:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Criminal assessments, fines and restitution | \$ 916,450.11 |
| Civil collections (including EPA cases)     | 14,171,674.01 |
| Asset forfeiture                            | 573,657.00    |

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Criminal collections include fines, court-ordered restitution, and mandatory assessments levied against defendants. Civil collections include civil penalties and debts that are repaid to federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Forfeitures are assets that are forfeited to the government because they are used in drug dealing or other illegal activity or are the profits of criminal activity.

### **Crime Victims Fund**

Criminal assessments – \$100 for each count of conviction – are earmarked for the federal Crime Victims Fund, which awards annual grants to Rhode Island for crime victim compensation and victim assistance programs. Money collected for civil debts and penalties is returned to the federal agency to which it is owed.

Among the criminal fines paid in fiscal 2003 was a \$100,000 fine paid by former Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. as part of his sentence for a racketeering conspiracy. Included in the civil collections were several payments reimbursing the government for expenses incurred in cleaning up Davis Liquid Waste, an EPA Superfund site in Smithfield.

Among the criminal forfeitures in fiscal 2003 were the shares of a Coventry house and landscaping business belonging to George Giusti, who pleaded guilty to marijuana trafficking and was sentenced last year to 41 months in federal prison.

The Financial Litigation Unit is comprised of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael P. Iannotti and Lisa Dinerman, and Paralegal Specialists Sylvia Dulgarian, Sandra Mascola and Maria Natale. It is led by Civil Division Chief, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Robin E. Feder.